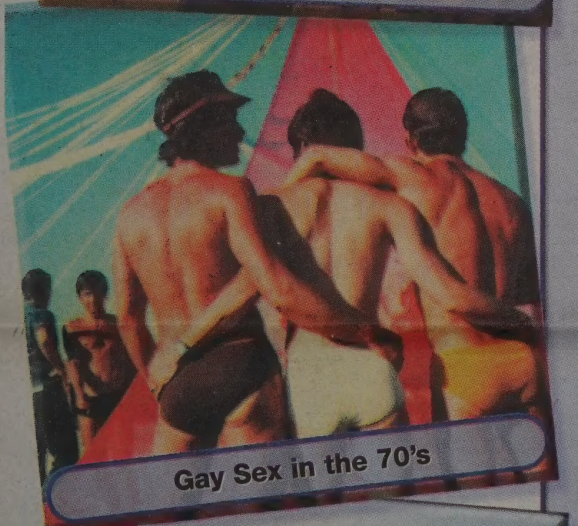
Seeing 'Lavender' in Colorado Springs

Loggerheads

Cote d'Azur



Gay Sex in the 70's

Loggerheads

By Alma Cremonesi,
PPLFF Organizer

On September 16-18, the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival (PPLFF) presents a rare opportunity for audiences at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St. in Colorado Springs, to see international films with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered characters and stories. Colorado Springs seems an unlikely place for the only GLBT-specific film festival in Colorado this year, but Festival producers have fought mightily to keep this festival alive for six years in order to provide gala entertainment for the GLBT community and greater balance to a city that hasn't always been friendly to GLBT people. The Festival needs your support in order to continue every year, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend this stellar event.

Over the six-year life of PPLFF, the films have become better and more inclusive, with ensemble casts, complex characters and fascinating stories. Festival programmers scour the world of film to find the best shorts, features and documentaries of the year. This year is no exception, with an incredible lineup of films and parties. Spending the weekend at the Festival takes you to many countries and gives you insights into the humor and perspectives of other cultures, right in the beautiful Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, which co-produces the Festival and will simultaneously house a large Andy Warhol exhibit.

On Opening Night, September 16, the Festival goes to Barcelona, Spain in the year 1913. Festival programmers chose to open with a Canadian short film and Spanish feature this year to celebrate Canada and Spain's enlightened decision to legalize gay and lesbian marriage. The Spanish feature film *Unconscious* follows a catered reception that brings a diverse community together in a lively celebration of GLBT people. Replete with costumes of the period, *Unconscious* is a funny Spanish farce whose complex characters flounder in the nascent age of psychoanalysis. A feminist woman and her brother-in-law search for her lost husband and discover an underworld of desires, perversions and variant sexualities among the well-dressed repressed of pre-World-War-I intellectual society. Award-winning director Joaquin Oristrell's energetic farce keeps a steady pace, supported by an excellent poker-faced cast, even through the script's most hilarious twists.

The films of the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival have changed considerably over the life of the Festival. Lesbians and gays have become complex characters whose relationships find a greater context in society and emerge as whole people. This relatively young genre now creates sophisticated films unique in the world of entertainment, as the first two films on Saturday, September 17, illustrate. *Unveiled*, screening at noon, takes us from Iran, where a lesbian flees for her life, to Germany, where she hopes to gain asylum by changing her identity to that of a man. *Unveiled* is a political film that offers a compelling love story and, indeed, insight into the plight of lesbians in fundamentalist third world countries.

Loggerheads, screening at 2:45 p.m., tells a story of similar discrimination in our own Christian South. A young man leaves his adoptive family at 16 because of their refusal to accept his homosexuality. He later develops AIDS. A mature and necessary drama, *Loggerheads* stunningly depicts the lives of conservative characters who, after society pushes them in directions that alienate them from each other, are ulti-

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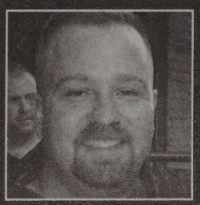

Wrangler

Music

The Telluride Blues and Brews Festival will take place Sep. 16-18 in Telluride's Town Park. For tickets, call 866-515-6166 or go to telluride-blues.com.

Bradburn Concert Green in Westminster presents a free fall concert series every Sunday from 5-7 p.m. thru Sep. 25. For more info, call 303-573-0050 or go to bradburnvillage.com.

9/9: Sophie B. Hawkins; Rialto Theatre; 970-962-2120.
9/10: Sophie B. Hawkins; The Walnut Room; 303-292-1700.
9/10: Lynn Patrick; Boulder Pride; 303-499-5777; boulderpride.org.
9/11: Foreigner; Hudson Gardens; 303-797-8565; hudson gardens.org.
9/11: Interpol: Fillmore Auditorium; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/14: Sugarland; Paramount Theatre; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/15: George Clinton; Red Rocks; 303-830-TIXS; hob.com.
9/16: Pierre Bensusan; Swallow Hill Music Association; 303-777-1003; swallowhill.com.
9/16: Bloc Party: Fillmore Auditorium; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/16: The Fray; Paramount Theatre; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/16: Jammin' 92.5's Family Reunion; Coors Amphitheatre; 303-830-TIXS; hob.com.
9/17: John Stewart; Swallow Hill; 303-777-1003; swallowhill.com.
9/17: John Mayer Trio; Fillmore Auditorium; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/17: Keith Urban; Red Rocks; 303-830-TIXS; hob.com.
9/18: The Allman Brothers Band; Red Rocks; 303-830-TIXS; hob.com.
9/18: Roger McGuinn; Swallow Hill; 303-777-1003; swallowhill.com.
9/18: Maceo Parker; Fox Theatre; 303-443-3399; foxtheatre.com.
9/19: Green Day; Pepsi Center; 303-830-TIXS; pepsi center.com.
9/19: String Cheese Incident; Boulder Theatre; boultertheater.com.
9/20: Hootie & the Blowfish; Paramount Theatre; 303-830-TIXS; cc.com.
9/20: Oasis; Red Rocks; 303-830-TIXS; hob.com.

Screen

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is now playing at the Oriental Theatre every Friday at midnight. For more info, go to denverrhps.com.

The Manhattan Short Film Festival runs at the Starz Filmcenter Sep. 16-18. For more info, call 303-820-FILM or go to starzfilmcenter.com.

The Denver Art Museum presents Fall 2005 Film Series from 9/13-10/25 at Starz FilmCenter, featuring seven films from Alfred Hitchcock. For more info, call 720-913-0105 or go to denverartmuseum.org.

Chez Artiste:
2800 S. Co. Blvd., 303-757-7161.
Denver Public Library:
10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.; 720-865-1148.
Esquire:
590 Downing, 303-733-5757.
Mayan:
110 Broadway, 303-744-6796.
Phipps IMAX Theater:
303-322-7009.
Starz Filmcenter:
303-820-FILM; Schedule at starzfilmcenter.com.
The Historic Oriental Theatre:
4335 W. 44th Ave., 303-433-3786, presents classic movies every week. Now showing: *Rocky Horror Picture Show.*

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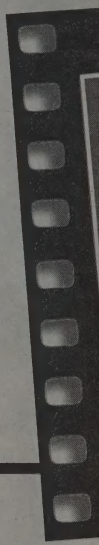

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mately driven by their hearts to make things right, no matter how difficult. Filmed along the beautiful North Carolina coast where the loggerhead turtles spawn, the story brings together an adoptive mother, a birth mother and their lost son, with an all-star cast featuring Tess Harper, Michael Learned and Kip Pardue.

Then, at 5:15 p.m., the award-winning *Girl Play*, a funny love story, raises the complicated question, "What do you do when true love comes along and you're already in a relationship?" And at 8 p.m., the German film *Summer Storm*, winner of several awards at German film festivals, handsomely depicts the thrill and pain of first loves and the challenges of friends on a rowing team who find themselves on opposite sides of the sexuality divide.

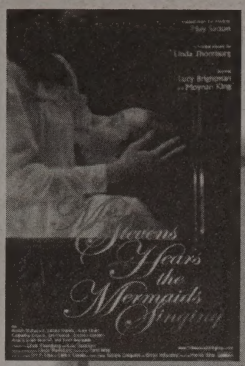
The Festival includes a continental breakfast on Sunday morning, September 18, followed by two timely documentaries beginning at noon. *Gay Republicans* recreates the drama of the agonizing decision of the Log Cabin Republicans not to support their party's nominee because of his unenlightened position on gay and lesbian marriage. *Gay Sex in the 70's* demonstrates that the '70s were not only a time of sexual freedom, drugs and the emergence of AIDS, but a time of creating community and laying the foundation of a new political movement with its biggest battles ahead.

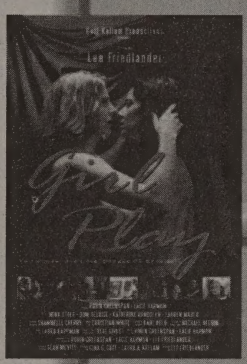
Presenting the expanse of 20th century political movements affecting women, *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*, based on the work of May Sarton and screening at 3 p.m., recreates the fascinating life of a woman at the forefront of her times. Mrs. Stevens' life mirrors the struggles of women to gain suffrage, independence during World II and sexual liberation, to stand against McCarthyism in the '50s and to embrace the changes of consciousness of the women's liberation movement that link Mrs. Stevens and the women of her era with a new generation.

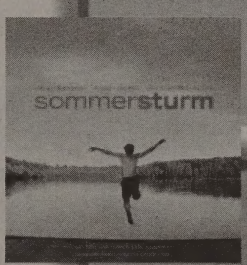
The great lineup of films of the 6th Annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival concludes at 8 p.m. with a wonderful French farce, *Cote d'Azur*, that will keep you laughing from frame to frame. From the moment a French family arrives on vacation on the Riviera, taboos are broken and the limits of love are tested. In the midst of our national debate over what constitutes a family and who gets to decide, the directors of *Cote d'Azur* prove that our families are ours to make.

Don't miss the wonderful movies of the 6th annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, September 16-18 in the newly refurbished theater at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Participating in the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival is a truly unique and gratifying experience. And guess what? You'll find Colorado Springs a truly warm and welcoming place to be. ■

For more information about the entire Festival, call 719-38-MOVIE to request a brochure, directions or information about accommodations, or go to www.pplff.org.







'Art for Love'

Join the Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies (MCCR) for "Art for Love," their 2nd annual Art Auction Fundraiser benefiting Project Angel Heart and MCCR, on Sat, Sep. 17 at 6 p.m. at 980 Clarkson St. in Denver. Live and silent auctions begin at 7:30 p.m., and will feature a portrait sitting by nationally known portraitist Doyle Chappell worth an estimated $5,000. A donation of $5 is requested at the door. Enjoy wine, beverages, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and more. For more info or to make a donation, call 303-860-1816 or 303-886-3015 or e-mail mcfree2b@hotmail.com.

Stage

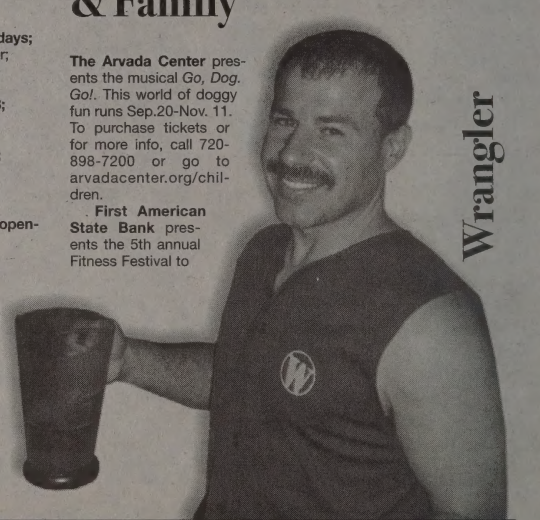
An Ideal Husband: thru 9/17; Open Stage Theatre Company; 970-221-6730; lctix.com.
Assassins: thru 9/24; Phoenix Theatre; 720-209-4105; nextstagedenver.com.
BleeP the What?!: 9/16-11/12; Bovine Metropolis Theater; 303-758-4722; bovinemetropolis.com.
Comedy in a Box: Fridays; Denver Civic Theatre; 303-309-3773.
Dead White Males: thru 10/2; Miners Alley Playhouse; 303-935-3044; minersalley.com.
Freak Train: last Mondays; The Bug; 303-477-9984; bugtheatre.com.
Improv Hootenanny: Mondays; Bovine Metropolis Theater; 303-758-4722; bovine metropolis.com.
Inherit the Wind: thru 9/18; The Bug; 303-477-9984; bugtheatre.com.
Intimate Apparel: thru 10/2; Arvada Center; 720-898-7200; arvadacenter.org.
Menopause The Musical: open-ended run; New Denver Civic Theater; 303-309-3773; denvercivic.com.
Monkey's Uncle: third Wednesdays; Jazz @ Jack's; 303-433-1000; monkeysuncle.info.
Newsical: open-ended run; New Denver Civic Theatre; 303-309-3773.
Promiscuity: 9/15; Playwright Theatre; 303-499-0383; playwrighttheatre.com.
Ragtime and Again: 9/8-11; Town Hall Arts Center; 303-794-2787; townhallartscenter.com.
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead: 9/16-10/1; Boulder's Upstart Crow; 303-442-1415.
Takács Quartet: 9/15; Lakewood Cultural Center; 303-987-7845; lakewood.org.
The Shape of Things: 9/9-25; openstage etc.; 970-484-5237; openstagetheatre.org.

Youth & Family

The Arvada Center presents the musical *Go, Dog. Go!*. This world of doggy fun runs Sep.20-Nov. 11. To purchase tickets or for more info, call 720-898-7200 or go to arvadacenter.org/children.

First American State Bank presents the 5th annual Fitness Festival to be held Saturday, Sep. 10. The event will include a 5K run/walk at 9 a.m., followed by live music, a silent auction, prizes and lots of family fun. To register, go to fasbfitnessfestival.com.

The Hudson Gardens will hold a Free Day on Sunday, Sep. 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more info, go to hudsongardens.org. ■



Rocky Mountain Rollergirls

The Rocky Mountain Rollergirls, Denver's only all-girl, flat-track roller derby league, skates in the grudge match of the year on Sat, Sep. 17 from 7-9 p.m. at the Bladium Sports Club, 2400 Central Park Blvd. in Denver. The Red Ridin' Hoods are preparing to wreak revenge against champions Sugar Kill Gang in a rematch that will make their first sell-out bout look like child's play. And don't miss the Grudge Match After Party and Bender's Tavern, 314 E. 13th Ave. in Denver from 10 p.m. to close. Tickets are $11 in advance and $13 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Twist & Shout, 33 E. Alameda Ave.. in Denver, and at the Bladium Sports Club. For more info, go to www.rmrollergirls.com.